

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 /109 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:STESCUDERO:JM

APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN

IO/UNP:PSBRIDGES

AF/C:RCATES (DRAFT)

-----078300 222225Z /13

O 222128Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, SL

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: BRAZZAVILLE 1076

1. DEPARTMENT INFORMED TODAY BY USUN THAT YUGOSLAV
MISOFF IN NEW YORK BELIEVES US WILL BE IN TROUBLE ON
PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24 THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF
THREE VOTE CHANGES. TWO ARE PREDICTABLE, ETHIOPIA AND
AFGHANISTAN, BUT THE THIRD, DUE ACCORDING TO THE YUGOSLAV
TO EXTENSIVE CUBAN LOBBYING, IS THE CONGO. BECAUSE THE
COMMITTEE VOTE WILL BE VERY CLOSE THIS YEAR AND GIVEN
THE CONGO 1977 POSITION, YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER
ASAP AT THE HIGHEST FEASIBLE LEVEL EMPHASIZING THAT THIS
QUESTION IS OF CONCERN AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

2. IN REQUESTING CONGOLESE SUPPORT FOR PROCEDURAL
RESOLUTION YOU SHOULD STRESS THE FOLLOWING:
--THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION HAS MADE CLEAR HIS
WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE
OF PUERTO RICO, WHETHER THEY CHOOSE INDEPENDENCE, STATE-

HOOD, COMMONWEALTH STATUS, OR A MODIFICATION OF THAT STATUS.

-- THE PROCLAMATION IS A REAFFIRMATION OF EXISTING US POLICY THAT PUERTO RICO IS CLEARLY SELF-GOVERNING WITHIN THE MEANING OF CHAPTER XI OF THE UN CHARTER. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO FREELY ENTERED INTO THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT IN 1952, AND EXPRESSED THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THAT ARRANGEMENT IN A 1967 REFERENDUM.

-- PUERTO RICO IS A VIGOROUS DEMOCRACY. FOR THE COMMITTEE TO DECIDE THAT PUERTO RICO BELONGS ON A LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO SAYING THAT THE PRESENT STATUS DOES NOT REFLECT THE FREELY EXPRESSED VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. SUCH A CONCLUSION FLIES IN THE FACE OF ITS HISTORY AND POLITICS OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES, INCLUDING REPEATED FREE ELECTIONS.

-- IN DETERMINING THE VOTE IN THE C-24, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CONGO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACTS OF THE PUERTO RICAN SITUATION AND CONSIDER, AS WELL, WHERE THE CONGO'S NATIONAL INTEREST LIES IN VIEW OF THE US STRONGLY FELT POSITION IN THIS MATTER.

3. FYI: WE APPRECIATE ASSURANCES OF CONGOLESE POSITION
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(REFTEL) BUT, IN VIEW YUGOSLAV COMMENT, WOULD HOPE FOR READ-BACK FROM APPROPRIATE LEVEL ON GOC POLICY POSITION AS WELL AS CONFIRMATION THAT APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN CABLED TO CONGO MISSION IN NEW YORK. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE213219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STESCUDERO:JM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780343-0930
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780836/aaaabdxq.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e163635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRAZZAVILLE 1076
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1656949
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24
TAGS: PORG, RQ, SL, UNGA
To: BRAZZAVILLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e163635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014